



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Virginia*

Paul J. McNulty
United States Attorney

2100 Jamieson Avenue (703) 299-3700
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

News Release

For Immediate Release
Alexandria, Virginia
December 7, 2005

For further information contact
Sam Dibbley at 703-842-4050

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Agni Lisa Brown and Maria Antonietta Mourizaki pleaded guilty today to conspiracy to violate the Mann Act and White Slavery Act in connection with their operation of a brothel. Brown also pleaded guilty to money laundering for funneling proceeds from the brothel to finance her purchase of a vehicle. The Honorable James C. Cacheris, United States District Judge, set sentencing for February 24, 2006. Agni Brown faces a maximum sentence of 15 years imprisonment and Maria Mourizaki faces a maximum sentence of 5 years imprisonment.

Between 2000 and 2005, Brown and her daughter, Mourizaki, ran a brothel located in Springfield, VA. The brothel operated from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m. six days each week, with customers paying female employees cash in exchange for sex. The women were often immigrants in the country illegally. Some had been brought into the country by human traffickers, although the investigation did not show that Brown and Mourizaki were involved in human trafficking.

Over a period of a little more than four years, Brown deposited \$731,432 in cash into bank accounts that she controlled and purchased \$633,504 in properties and cars. A search of her residence revealed an additional \$168,900 in cash. As part of the plea agreement, Brown will have to file amended tax returns showing their true income from the illegal operation and pay back taxes on that income. In addition, Brown will forfeit her Alexandria, Virginia home, the \$168,900 found in that home, another home in Cape Charles, Virginia, a 2003 GMC Envoy, \$23,180.65 seized from her bank accounts and \$2,006 found in her vehicle.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service, and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael E. Rich and Erik R. Barnett.

###